

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A method of providing photofinishing services, comprising the steps of:
 - a) supplying to a photographer at least one removable memory device selected from a variety of available formats and having a format appropriate for use in a digital camera provided by the photographer;
 - b) the photographer selectively photographing and storing, and optionally deleting some or all of, a plurality of digital images on the at least one removable memory device;
 - c) the photographer delivering the at least one removable memory device containing undeleted ones of the digital images to a photofinisher, including the steps of the photofinisher reading a code stored on the at least one removable memory device and accessing a database to determine whether the database includes verification data corresponding to the code stored on the at least one removable memory device, said verification data indicating to the photofinisher that the photofinisher is committed to produce prints of the digital images stored on the at least one removable memory device ~~having stored therein data corresponding to the code for verifying that the removable memory device carries with it a commitment to create prints~~;
 - d) the photofinisher producing prints of the digital images stored on the at least one removable memory device and returning the prints to the photographer; and
 - e) the photofinisher erasing the digital images from the at least one removable memory device and preparing the at least one removable memory device to be supplied to another photographer to repeat steps b) through e).

2. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of the photofinisher producing an index print and/or CD of the digital images from the at least one removable memory device and returning the index print and/or CD to the photographer.

3. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 2, wherein the at least one removable memory device contains a number N of digital images and also indicates that a number M of prints have been promised, where M is less than N, but the index print and/or the CD contain all N of the digital images on the at least one removable memory device.

4. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 3, wherein the index print and/or the CD contain all N of the digital images on the at least one removable memory device and indicates which images have or have not been printed.

5. ***(Canceled)***

6. ***(Canceled)***

7. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one removable memory device comprises a CF, MMC, SD, xD, or Memory Stick format.

8. ***(Canceled)***

9. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one removable memory device bears a graphic that indicates to the photofinisher that the device carries with it a commitment to create prints.

10. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one removable memory device is returned to the photofinisher having a number of stored digital images less than a predefined number of image files, and further including the step of providing a credit to the photographer for a difference between the number of stored digital images and the predefined number.

11. ***(Canceled)***

12. ***(Original)*** The method claimed in claim 10, wherein the credit is in the form of a debit card that is returned with the prints.

13. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein a debit card for photofinishing services is supplied to the photographer along with the at least one removable memory device and the debit card is presented to the photofinisher along with the at least one removable memory device.

14. ***(Currently Amended)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one removable memory device includes a first portion of memory that is electronically readable by a removable memory device supplier and the photofinisher, but not by the digital camera provided by the photographer, and a second portion of memory that is electronically readable by the supplier, the photofinisher, and the digital camera provided by the photographer.

15. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 14, wherein the first portion of memory contains the code.

16. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 14, wherein the first portion of memory contains a number indicating a number of times that the at least one removable memory device has been recycled.

17. *(Previously Presented)* The method claimed in claim 14, wherein the first portion of memory contains instructions for the photofinisher provided by the supplier.

18. *(Previously Presented)* The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of supplying a claim card for retrieving photofinishing services to the photographer along with the at least one removable memory device and presenting the claim card to the photofinisher to retrieve the photofinishing services.

19. *(Previously Presented)* The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of supplying a removable tag for retrieving photofinishing services to the photographer along with the at least one removable memory device and presenting the removable tag to the photofinisher to retrieve the photofinishing services.

20. *(Previously Presented)* The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of writing an identifier unique to the photographer on the at least one removable memory device and presenting the identifier unique to the photographer to the photofinisher to retrieve the photofinishing services.

21. *(Previously Presented)* The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of writing a phone number or e-mail address of the photographer on the at least one removable memory device and presenting the phone number or e-mail address to the photofinisher to retrieve the photofinishing services.

22. *(Previously Presented)* The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of writing a phone number or e-mail address of the photographer on a photofinishing envelope and presenting the phone number or e-mail address to the photofinisher to retrieve the photofinishing services.

23. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of erasing the digital images from the at least one removable memory device includes writing a test pattern onto the at least one removable memory device.

24. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one removable memory device includes a digitally stored prerecorded image to be electronically displayed on a display screen of the digital camera provided by the photographer.

25. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 24, wherein the prerecorded image contains instructions to the photographer for using the photofinishing services.

26. ***(Original)*** The method claimed in claim 24, further comprising the step of selling advertising space in the prerecorded image.

27. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one removable memory device includes the code in a file hidden from electronic access by the digital camera or in a pseudo bad sector of its memory that is inaccessible electronically by the digital camera.

28. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of the photofinisher producing an index print and CD of the digital images from the at least one removable memory device and returning the index print and CD to the photographer, wherein the index print includes a printed filename of a corresponding image file recorded on the CD.

29. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of the photofinisher producing at least one print and a CD of the digital images from the at least one removable memory device and returning the at least one print and CD to the photographer, and indicating on the at least one print a filename of a corresponding image file recorded on the CD.

30. *(Canceled)*

31. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus comprising:

a digital camera including a removable memory card having image data stored thereon;

the removable memory card comprising a first portion of memory that is electronically readable by a photofinishing services provider but not by the digital camera, and a second portion of memory that is electronically readable by the photofinishing services provider and by the digital camera; and

the first portion of memory comprising a code for use by indicating to the photofinishing services provider to verify that the photofinishing services provider is committed to create prints of the image data stored on that the removable memory card ~~carries with it a commitment to create prints.~~

32. *(Currently Amended)* The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the photofinishing services provider electronically reads the code stored on that the removable memory card and then checks if the code corresponds to a valid code saved in a database of codes at the photofinishing services provider wherein the code in the first portion of memory corresponds to a code saved in a database of the photofinishing services provider for verifying that the removable memory card carries with it the commitment to create prints.

33. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus comprising:

a memory card capable of being electronically coupled to a digital camera and having image data stored thereon;

the memory card comprising a first portion of memory that is electronically readable by a photofinishing services provider but not by the digital camera, and a second portion of memory that is electronically readable by the photofinishing services provider and by the digital camera;

the second portion of memory having said image data stored thereon; and

the first portion of memory comprising a code for use by ~~indicating~~
~~to~~ the photofinishing services provider to verify that the photofinishing services
provider is committed to create prints of the image data stored on the second
portion of memory that the memory card carries with it a commitment to create
prints.

34. *(Currently Amended)* The apparatus of claim 33, wherein
the photofinishing services provider electronically reads the code stored on that
the removable memory card and then checks if wherein the code in the first
portion of memory corresponds to a valid code saved in a database of codes at the
photofinishing services provider for verifying that the memory card carries with it
the commitment to create prints.